

### **Amendments to the Specification**

Please replace the title with the following:

## **PROCESS FOR TREATING FIBROSES WITH BIOCOMPATIBLE POLYMER**

Please replace the paragraph beginning on line 16 of page 37 with the following:

After each synthesis step the polymers are collected in solid form (precipitation or filtration followed by lyophilization). The polymers are then resolubilized in the minimum volume of distilled water and then introduced into dialysis tubing (Spectrapor) with a cut-off threshold of 6000 to 8000  $\text{g/mole}^+$   $\text{g/mole}$ . The dialysis is performed against twice-distilled water (MilliQ) in a ratio of 1 volume of product per 50 volumes of water for 4 to 5 days with two changes of water per day.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on line 26 of page 37 with the following:

After the dialysis, the content of the tubing is ultrafiltered in an ultrafiltration cell (Pellikon, Millipore) on a cellulose membrane with a cutoff threshold of 10,000  $\text{g/mole}^+$   $\text{g/mole}$ . The quality of the purification was monitored with a conductimetry cell. When the conductivity of the water eliminated at the outlet of the cell had returned to the conductivity of pure distilled water ( $2\mu\text{S}$ ), the purification was stopped and the solution was concentrated prior to lyophilization.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on line 15 of page 38 with the following:

On each glucose residue, three hydroxyl functions are capable of reacting. A relative molar mass of 54  $\text{g/mole}^+$   $\text{g/mole}$  is attributed to each hydroxyl function, i.e., one third of the molecular mass of 162  $\text{g/mole}^+$   $\text{g/mole}$  of a constitutive residue of dextran. It is assumed that each hydroxyl has the same reactivity and that the substitutions first affect each glucose unit once prior to a possible second substitution on the same residue.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on line 20 of page 38 with the following:

A dextran T 40 of 40,000 ~~g/mole~~<sup>+</sup> g/mole thus contains 247 glucose residues of molar mass 162 ~~g/mole~~<sup>+</sup> g/mole.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on line 1 of page 39 with the following:

Thus, when a hydroxyl is substituted, there appears on the glucose a motif: -OCH<sub>2</sub>COONa. Each of these substituted subunits has a relative molecular mass of 240 ~~g/mole~~<sup>+</sup> g/mole.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on line 1 of page 39 with the following:

The rates of free carboxylic groups determined by acid-base determination gives a value X<sub>2</sub> which is always lower than the initial value X<sub>1</sub>. The difference X<sub>1</sub>-X<sub>2</sub> corresponds to the motifs -OCH<sub>2</sub>COO-SO<sub>3</sub>Na. Each of these substituted subunits has a molecular mass of 320 ~~g/mole~~<sup>+</sup> g/mole.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on line 9 of page 39 with the following:

NMR analysis revealed that the S corresponds to a sulfatation of the free hydroxyls of the glucose residues in addition to the preceding reaction. In this case, a motif -OSO<sub>3</sub>Na appears. Each of these sulfated glucose subunits has a relative molecular mass of 200 ~~g/mole~~<sup>+</sup> g/mole. The microanalyses provide the rates of S as a percentage of the mass of the polymer.